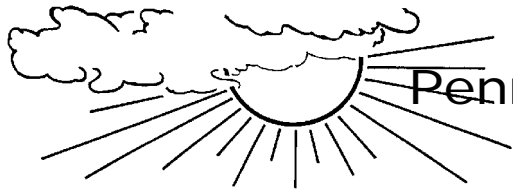




United States Department  
of Agriculture  
  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
  
Pennsylvania Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405  
(717) 787 3904  
FAX (800) 498 1548



# Pennsylvania: Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 14, 2000

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**Good Week for Field Work:** Warm, drier conditions last week, benefited crop growth and field work. There were 5.6 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 18 percent short, 73 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Activities included spring plowing; planting oats, potatoes, field corn and sweet corn, and alfalfa; ensiling small grains; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling manure; caring for livestock; and spraying fruit trees, alfalfa and weeds.

**Crops:** Last week, continued warm, dry conditions accelerated planting and growth of crops and the pace of field work. Fifty-four percent of the corn acreage was planted by week's end, 26 percentage points ahead of the previous week, and 12 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Eighteen percent of the soybean acreage was planted by week's end, 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Hay fields continue to be cut. Farmers reported damage from alfalfa weevils in eastern parts of the State.

**Livestock:** Pasture condition was rated 62 percent good to excellent last week. Pasture growth continued to be slow in some areas.

**Fruit & Vegetables:** As most of the fruit trees are beyond full bloom, trees have begun fruit set. Planting and transplanting of vegetables is underway.

**U.S. As Of May 7, 2000:** Dry weather aided rapid planting across most of the Nation, although some growers in the western Corn Belt and parts of the Great Plains waited for rain to provide adequate moisture. Heavy rain interrupted planting in the lower Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas in the southern Great Plains. Planted crops rapidly emerged due to warm weather, however seeds took nearly 2 weeks to germinate in many areas due to moisture shortages, especially in the western Corn Belt and southern High Plains. Crop development was stimulated by above-normal temperatures where adequate moisture was available. Fifty-one percent of the Nation's winter

wheat crop was at the heading stage or beyond, ahead of last year's 40-percent progress, and nearly 1 week ahead of the 34-percent average for this date. Development was stimulated by above-normal temperatures in the Corn Belt and most of the Great Plains. Along the western Gulf Coast, most of the crop was turning color and some fields were harvested. No fields were heading in some Western States. U.S. corn planting progress, at 78 percent, remained more than 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Last year, 45 percent of the crop was planted, while 44 percent would normally be planted by this date. The rapid planting pace continued through a second consecutive week in the Corn Belt. Planting neared completion in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri, although some growers waited for rain to recharge soil moisture supplies. Dry soils also limited progress in Texas. Thirty percent of the crop was emerged, well ahead of last year's 9-percent pace. Germination and emergence were aided by above-normal temperatures, although many seeds laid in dry soils for nearly 2 weeks before sprouting. Light, scattered showers relieved excessive dryness and promoted germination in some areas, but moisture shortages remained widespread, especially in the western Corn Belt. Thirty-four percent of the U.S. soybean acreage was planted, compared with 9 percent last year and the 5-year average of 8 percent. Planting accelerated in the Corn Belt, as many growers finished planting corn and focused their efforts on planting soybeans. Planting was active in the lower Mississippi Valley, even though wet weather interfered with progress in parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. U.S. planting and emergence of oats was well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Planting was aided by mostly dry weather, while above-normal temperatures and adequate moisture promoted rapid emergence across most of the northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Oat seeding advanced to 86 percent complete, compared with last year's 65-percent pace, and the 58-percent average for this date. Planting advanced 25 percentage points in Pennsylvania. Fifty-six percent of the crop was emerged, 14 percentage points ahead of a year ago. Oats rapidly emerged in the northern Corn Belt, despite increasing moisture shortages.

PA Crop Progress For Week Ending May 14, 2000

	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent			
Spring Plowing	79	71	85	78
Corn, Planted	54	28	58	42
Corn, Emerged	22	1	14	N/A
Barley, Headed	85	67	67	61
Barley, Yellow	7	1	0	0
Winter Wheat, Headed	36	5	21	21
Oats, Planted	93	86	93	85
Oats, Emerged	70	57	67	N/A
Soybeans, Planted	18	7	18	11
Potatoes, Planted	63	32	59	45
Alfalfa, 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	12	3	6	3

N/A = Not available

PA Crop Condition For Week Ending May 14, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	0	11	83	5
Winter Wheat	0	2	13	75	10
Oats	0	3	24	61	12
Alfalfa, Stands	1	6	20	59	14
Timothy Clover, Stands	2	10	25	50	13
Pasture Conditions	3	3	32	52	10

Issued By:

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service, Harrisburg, PA, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Weather Service.

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Weather Data For Week Ending May 14, 2000																		
Reporting Station	Weekly Temperature				Growing Degree Days From April 1				Rainfall - Values Are For A 24-Hour Period Ending 7:00 A.M., In Inches									
	High	Low	Avg	Dep From Norm	40 Degrees		50 Degrees		May							For Week	From April 1	
					Days	Dep From Norm	Days	Dep From Norm	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Total	Dep From Norm
Erie	84	45	67	12	545	167	240	183	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.15	0.01	0.00	0.07	1.11	7.87	3.16
Warren	88	44	66	11	531	183	216	158	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.16	1.06	8.03	2.81
Franklin	88	42	66	11	617	239	260	192	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.98	4.59	-0.59
Clearfield	85	41	67	12	545	158	237	163	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	6.20	1.08
Pittsburgh	87	44	69	11	698	173	327	200	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.22	4.93	0.23
Rector	87	38	67	9	563	38	247	120	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.62	0.92
Altoona	84	45	69	11	619	114	282	144	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.15	4.89	0.24
Emporium	88	42	68	13	550	163	233	159	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.24	0.48	6.13	1.01
Wellsboro	85	38	65	13	444	205	183	171	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.23	5.58	1.88
State College	88	48	71	14	680	216	324	201	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	4.23	-0.16
Williamsport	92	46	70	12	686	159	295	162	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.04	0.08	0.46	0.91	6.73	1.58
Selinsgrove	91	48	70	13	649	168	281	173	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.92	5.39	0.45
Montrose	86	42	65	12	462	206	187	167	0.02	0.01	1.42	1.17	0.12	0.43	0.44	3.61	11.47	6.05
Scranton	88	49	69	12	629	157	283	180	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.03	0.02	0.40	1.14	5.32	0.91
Allentown	91	49	69	11	689	149	321	178	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.07	0.04	1.83	2.14	6.80	1.21
Reading	90	51	72	13	743	223	346	215	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.01	0.00	0.71	1.00	4.51	-1.30
Harrisburg	93	55	75	15	842	227	409	217	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.53	5.11	-0.01
Biglerville	91	46	71	12	709	121	320	130	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.43	5.19	0.21
Lancaster	89	51	72	12	723	108	334	142	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.91	4.65	-0.47
Philadelphia	90	53	73	12	827	173	384	161	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.47	1.14	5.21	-0.12

**Weather Summary By:** National Weather Service, State College, Pennsylvania

**Crop Summary By:** Liana Cuffman, Agricultural Statistician, NASS

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